

Message Text

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ORIGIN TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08
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DRAFTED BY TREASURY:MSEARING
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
EUR/SOV:UHEDGAR
OMMERCE:HHEISS (INFO)
-----001157 071112Z /21
R 070155Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057472

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EEWT, UR, US

SUBJECT: BUSINESS FACILITATION

1. IN A MEETING WITH ZINOV'YEV OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
TRADE AND MKRTUMOV AND NAZAROV OF THE SOVIET TRADE
REPRESENTATION ON MARCH 3, TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY SOLOMON
RAISED THE ISSUE OF BUSINESS FACILITATION MEETINGS. SOLOMON
EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT DEPUTY MINISTER MANZHULO WANTED TO
DOWNGRADE THE BI-MONTHLY MEETINGS FROM BEING CHAIRED BY HIM
TO BEING CHAIRED BY ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES. SOLOMON SAID
THAT DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY REICH HAD BEEN CHAIRING THE
MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND FELT THAT MANZHULO SHOULD CHAIR
THEM IN MOSCOW.

2. ZINOV'YEV RESPONDED THAT MANZHULO NEVER SAID THAT HE
WOULD NOT MEET WITH MR. SKOUG IN MOSCOW, AND THAT THERE WAS
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NO INTENTION ON THEIR PART OF DOWNGRADING THESE MEETINGS.
NAZAROV ADDED THAT THEY HAD NEVER AGREED TO BI-MONTHLY
MEETINGS. NARAZOV TOLD SOLOMON THAT ON FEBRUARY 9,
MANZHULO HAD EXPLAINED TO SKOUG THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO
MEET WITH HIM IF THE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WERE OF DIRECT
CONCERN TO MANZHULO. OTHERWISE, SKOUG SHOULD MEET WITH THE
PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ISSUES. ZINOV'YEV EXPRESSED THE

VIEW THAT THE US SIDE SHOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE ABOUT WHO

PRESIDES AND THE FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS, AND ASSURED SOLOMON THAT MEETINGS WOULD BE HELD AND THAT MANZHULO WOULD PRESIDE IF THE ISSUES RAISED WARRANTED HIS ATTENTION.

3. SEARING (DIRECTOR OF TREASURY'S OFFICE OF EAST-WEST ECONOMIC POLICY) STATED THAT IN THE MEETINGS HELD IN THE US, REICH IS IN THE CHAIR, BUT THOSE PEOPLE IN THE USG WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SPECIFIC SUBJECTS ARE FREE TO SPEAK. THE SAME ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE FOR THE MOSCOW MEETINGS. HOWEVER, WE FELT THAT MANZHULO'S ACTING AS CHAIRMAN WOULD SERVE AS A CLEAR MANDATE TO RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS IN THE MFT TO WORK TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS UNDER DISCUSSION.

4. SOLOMON STATED THAT HE WAS AWARE AMBASSADOR SHULMAN HAD RAISED THE ISSUE WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN, AND THAT DOBRYNIN HAD AGREED TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH MOSCOW. SOLOMON STATED THAT FOR NOW WE WOULD LEAVE IT AT THAT. VANCE

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